
Virginia's Oral Health Workforce: Planning Districts

Healthcare Workforce Data Center

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Virginia Department of Health Professions

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VIRGINIA'S ORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE

Maldistribution of the health workforce, along with attendant concerns about access to care, are a recurring theme in the health workforce literature, including in oral health. While practitioners naturally follow the population, other factors such as lifestyle expectations, the need for jobs for spouses, income expectations, and access to practice support (e.g., professional collaboration and technology) tend to increase the number of practitioners in populous regions above what would be expected from population alone. In Virginia, large urban areas boast access to hundreds, or in the case of Northern Virginia, thousands of dentists. Other areas, such as the Eastern Shore, have fewer than 25. In rural areas where dental resources are already stretched thin the loss of one or a few practitioners can have a disproportionate impact on access to care.

State and national estimates of the dental workforce are available. The ADA, for instance, thinks the most likely case is that the number of dentists per 100,000 population will increase slightly by 2033 (see table from their report below). This figure, however, does not take into account changes in demand expected due to demographic change, mainly the aging of the baby boomer generation. HRSA's National Center for Health Workforce Analysis compares both supply and demand (see table, Page 2). It projects a national shortage of 15,600 dentists by 2025. However, it also estimates a surplus of 28,100 dental hygienists—assuming the level of usage that existed in 2012. Increased use of dental hygienists has the potential to moderate both the dentist shortage and hygienist surplus. In Virginia, HRSA projects a shortage of 230 dentists and a surplus of 642 hygienists.

Table 8: Summary of Workforce Projection under Nine Scenarios, Dentists per 100,000 Population

Assumptions		Projections					Estimated Likelihood
Inflow rate	Outflow rate	2013	2018	2023	2028	2033	
High	Low	61.7	62.6	63.6	64.4	65.1	***
High	Medium	61.7	62.1	62.7	63.3	63.8	**
High	High	61.7	61.5	61.6	62.0	62.3	*
Medium	Low	61.7	62.6	63.1	63.2	63.3	*****
Medium	Medium	61.7	62.1	62.2	62.1	61.9	*****
Medium	High	61.7	61.5	61.2	60.8	60.5	**
Low	Low	61.7	62.1	61.8	61.3	60.6	**
Low	Medium	61.7	61.6	61.0	60.1	59.3	*
Low	High	61.7	61.0	59.9	58.8	57.9	*

Source: ADA Health Policy Institute analysis of ADA masterfile; U.S. Census Bureau, Intercensal Estimates and National Population Projections. Notes: Data for 2013 are based on the ADA masterfile. Results after 2013 are projected. Baseline scenario is shaded. See Data & Methods for more details. "Estimated Likelihood" is the authors' assessment. See methods section for more details. Key to Estimated Likelihood: ***** = Most likely; **** = Highly likely; *** = Somewhat likely; ** = Unlikely; * = Highly unlikely.

Source: Health Policy Institute, American Dental Association. Research Brief: Supply of Dentists in the United States is Likely to Grow. October 2014.

http://www.ada.org/~media/ADA/Science%20and%20Research/HPI/Files/HPIBrief_1014_1.ashx

As useful as these projections are they both mask local area variations that currently impact access to dental providers, and that could impact access in the future.

Projections of the Oral Health Workforce in 2025 from the National Center for Health Workforce Analysis http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/healthworkforce/				
	National	% of Workforce	Virginia	% of Workforce
Dentists	-15,600	-8%	-230	-4%
Dental Hygienists	+28,100	+14%	+642	+13%

The following information on the oral health workforce in Virginia’s planning districts is an attempt to help communities gain some insight into their oral health workforce. It includes information on the number of dentists and dental hygienists who listed a primary work location in each district, the number of full-time equivalency units per 100,000 population provided within each district at both primary and secondary work locations, and information on the age distribution of each profession. Some of the information on age distribution, including the population pyramids, is presented for the part of the workforce that is age 30 or older. This limits distortions that may occur due to the longer education required for dentists.

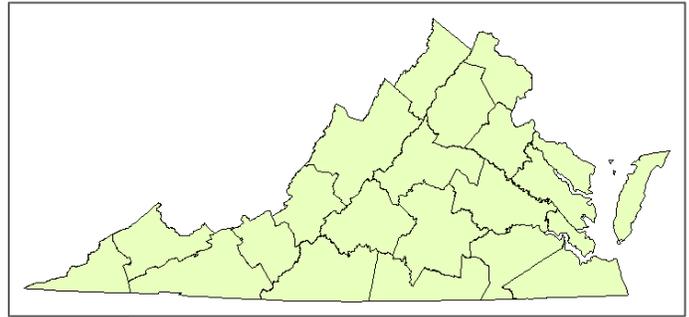
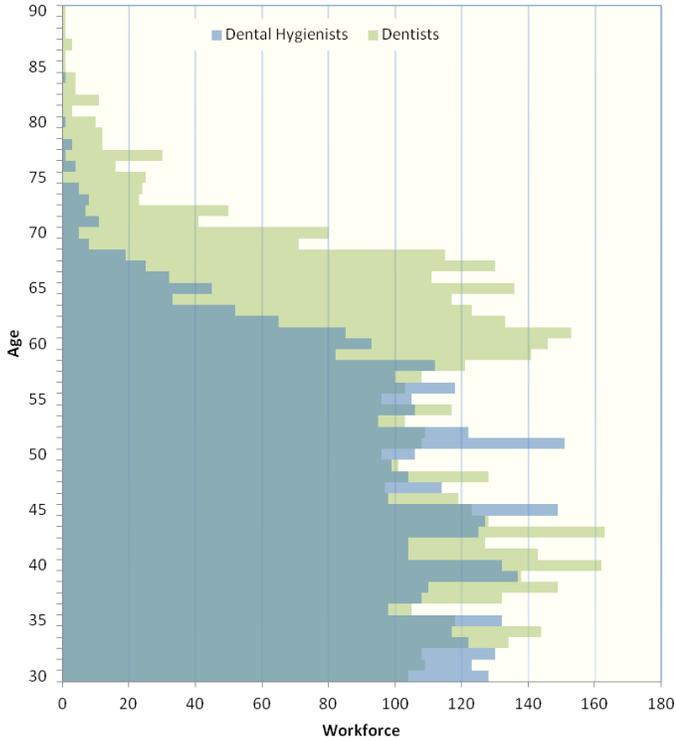
Limitations

The HWDC uses voluntary surveys administered during the license renewal cycle. Although we get very high response rates we use weighting to account for non-response. Please see HWDC’s 2014 reports and our Methodology & Glossary document on our website for further information on our weighting techniques. We do not adjust our weighting techniques for individual studies. Weighting may cause distortions, particularly in areas with small numbers of practitioners. Although there is some variation, the weighted and unweighted results of this analysis are similar. Ages are current as of January 1, 2014.

Note on Population Pyramids

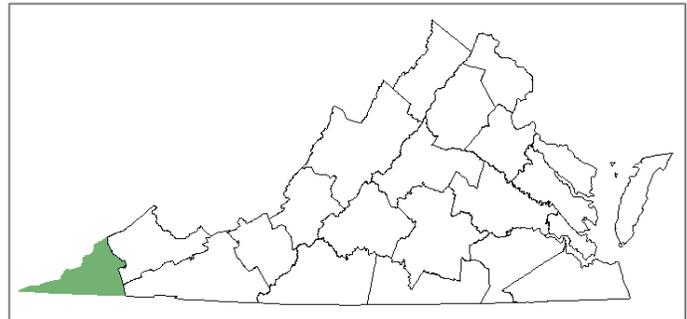
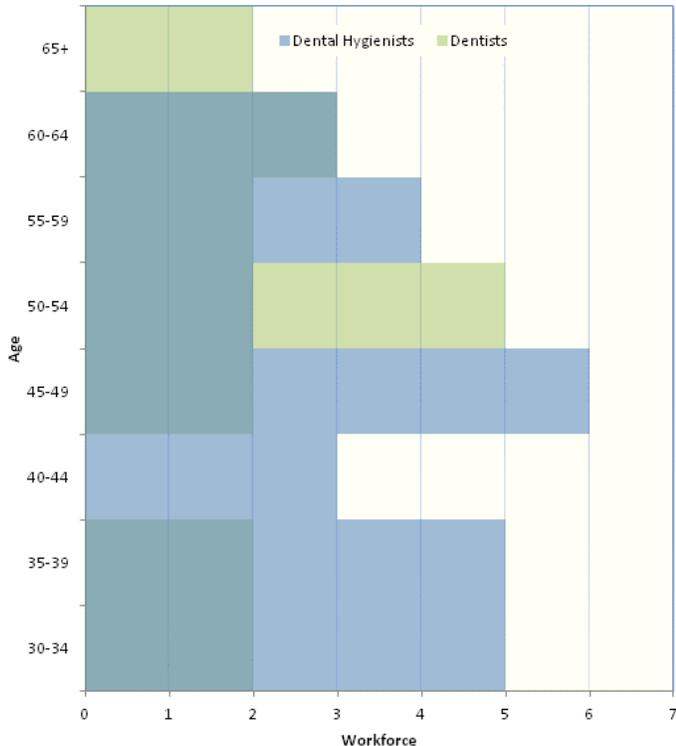
The population pyramids include information on both dentists and dental hygienists. Dentists are colored in light green and dental hygienists are colored in light blue. Areas where they overlap are darker blue-green.

Virginia

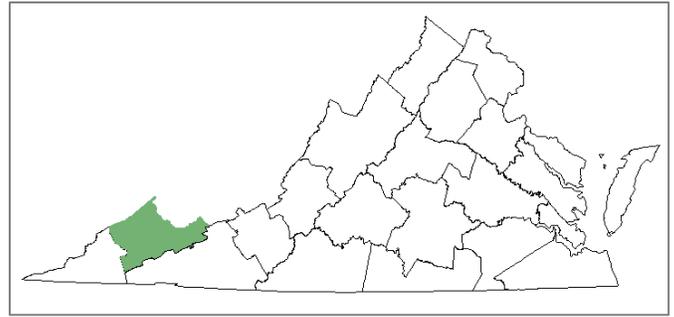
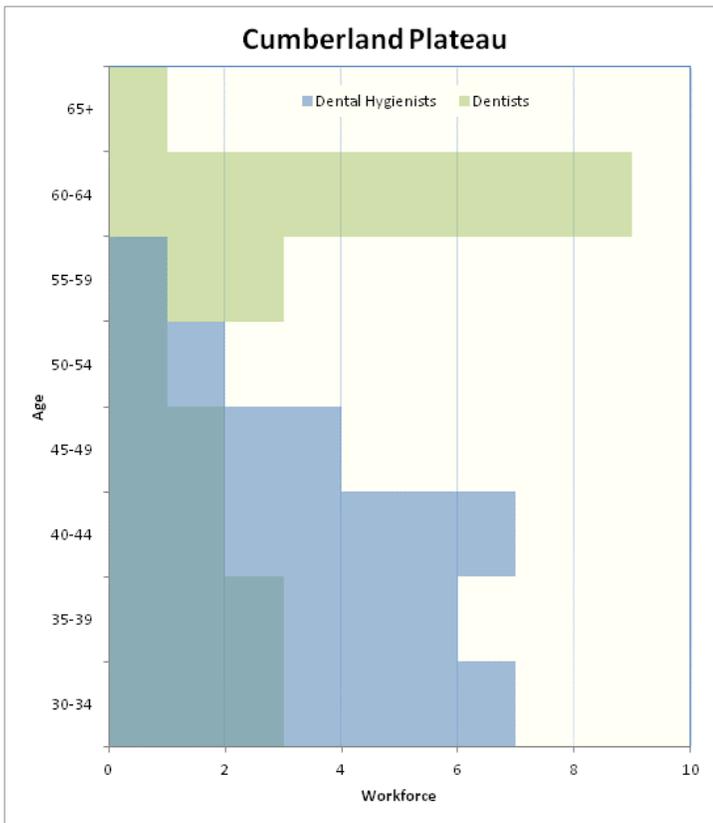


	Dental Hygienists	Dentists
All Ages		
% under 40	40%	26%
% 60+	11%	29%
30+ only		
% under 40	30%	24%
% 60+	13%	30%
Workforce		
Workforce	4,585	5,393
FTEs per 1,000 Residents	.37	0.56

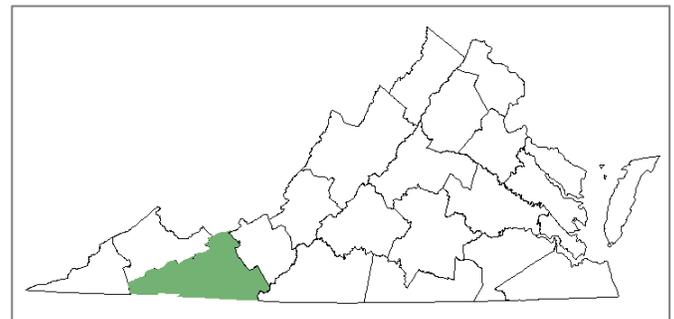
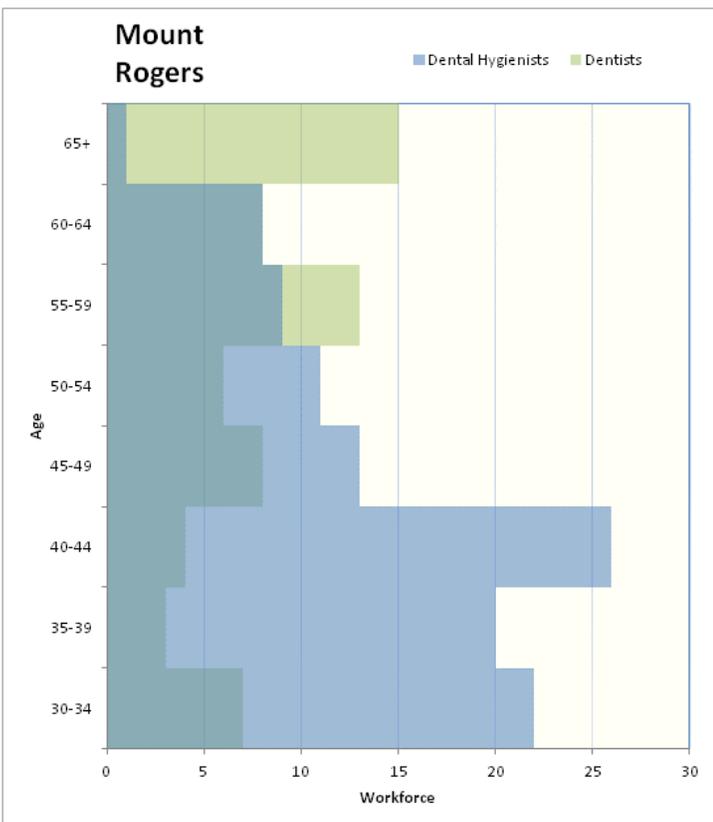
Lenowisco



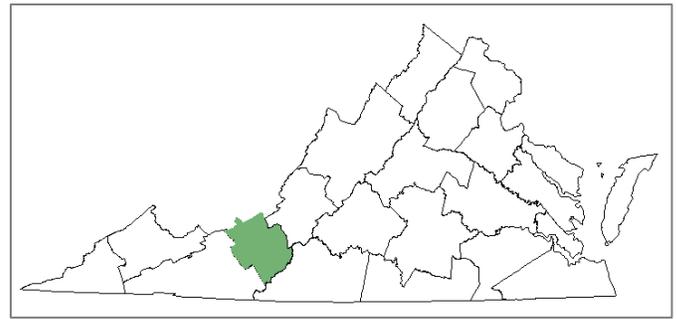
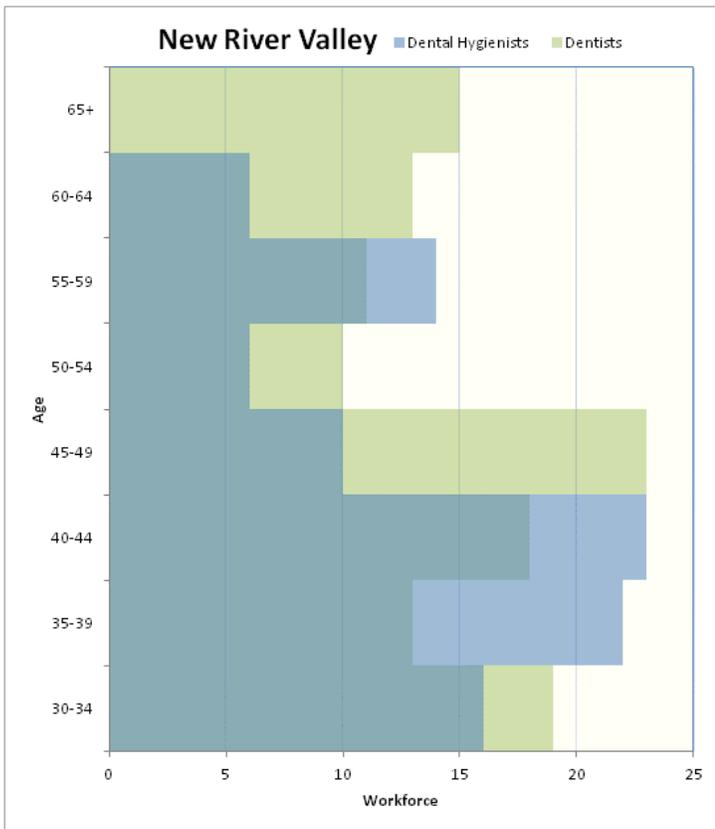
	Dental Hygienists	Dentists
All Ages		
% under 40	38%	26%
% 60+	10%	26%
30+ only		
% under 40	36%	22%
% 60+	11%	28%
Workforce		
Workforce	29	19
FTEs per 1,000 Residents	.19-.22	.19-.26



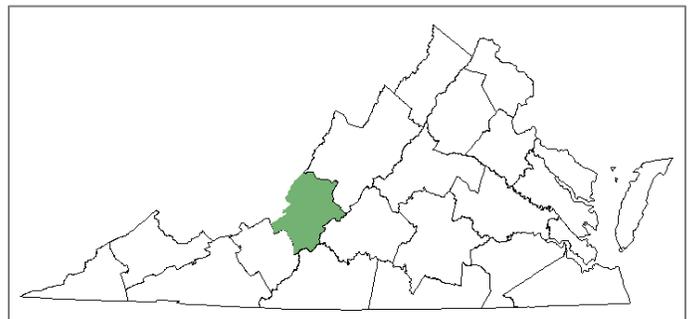
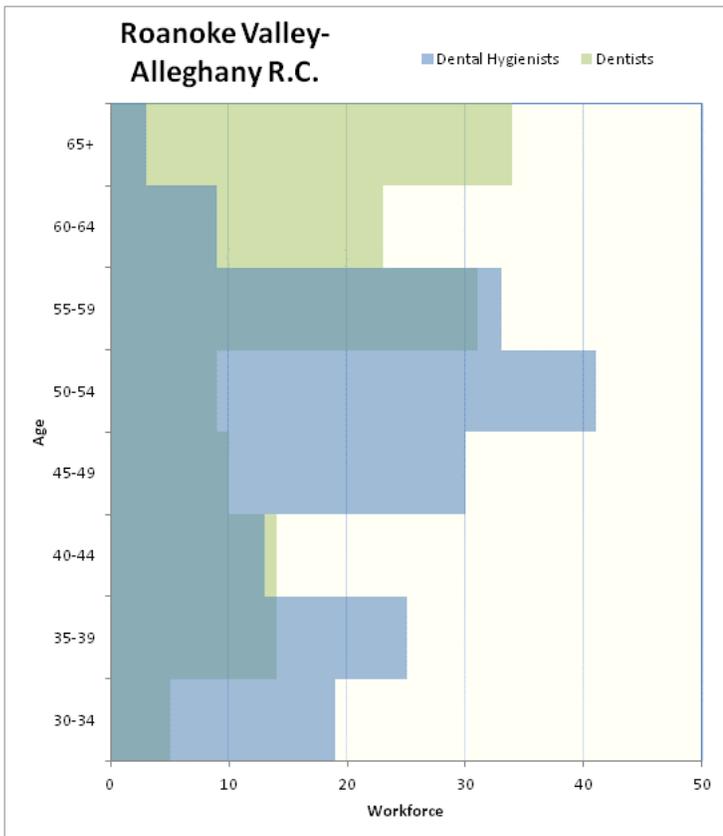
	Dental Hygienists	Dentists
All Ages		
% under 40	55%	25%
% 60+	0%	42%
30+ only		
% under 40	48%	25%
% 60+	0%	42%
Workforce		
Workforce	31	24
FTEs per 1,000 Residents	.12-.17	.19-.26



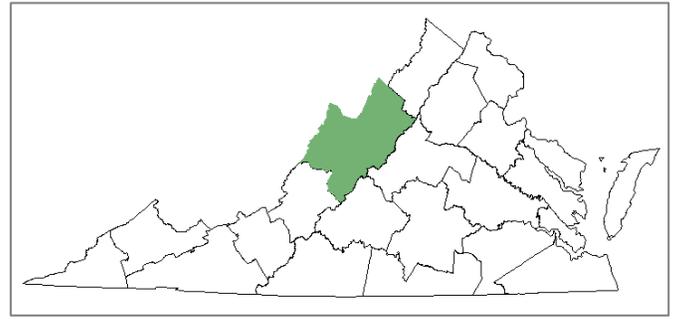
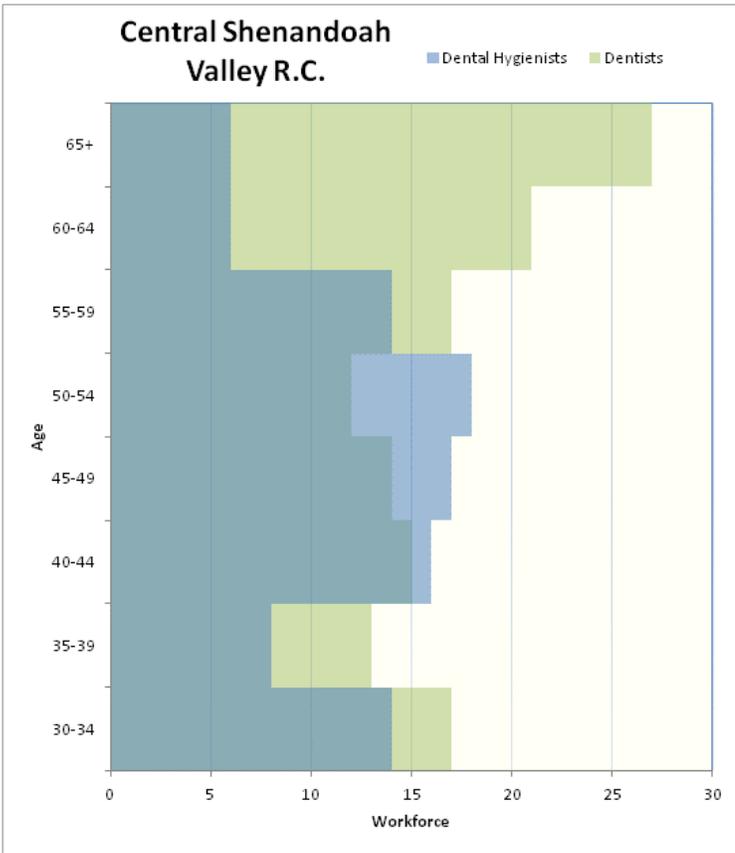
	Dental Hygienists	Dentists
All Ages		
% under 40	48%	18%
% 60+	7%	35%
30+ only		
% under 40	38%	16%
% 60+	8%	36%
Workforce		
Workforce	130	66
FTEs per 1,000 Residents	.41-.48	.31-.33



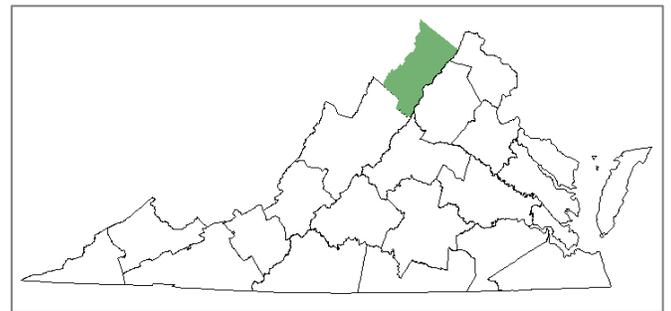
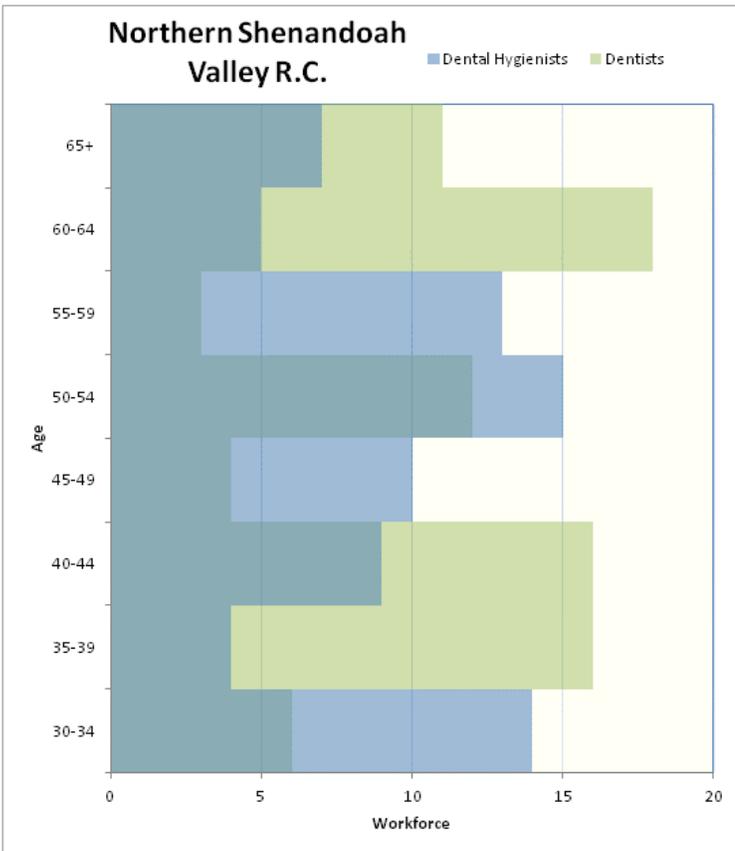
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All Ages		
% under 40	49%	31%
% 60+	5%	22%
30+ only		
% under 40	39%	26%
% 60+	6%	23%
Workforce		
Workforce	116	130
FTEs per 1,000 Residents	.41-.48	.52-.59



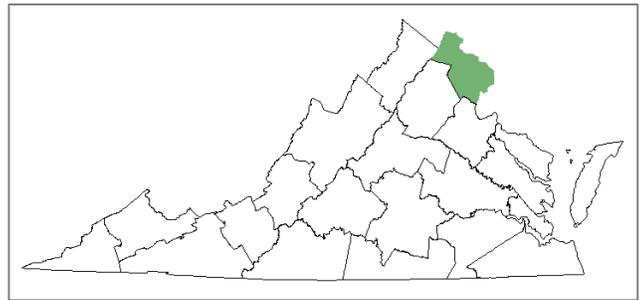
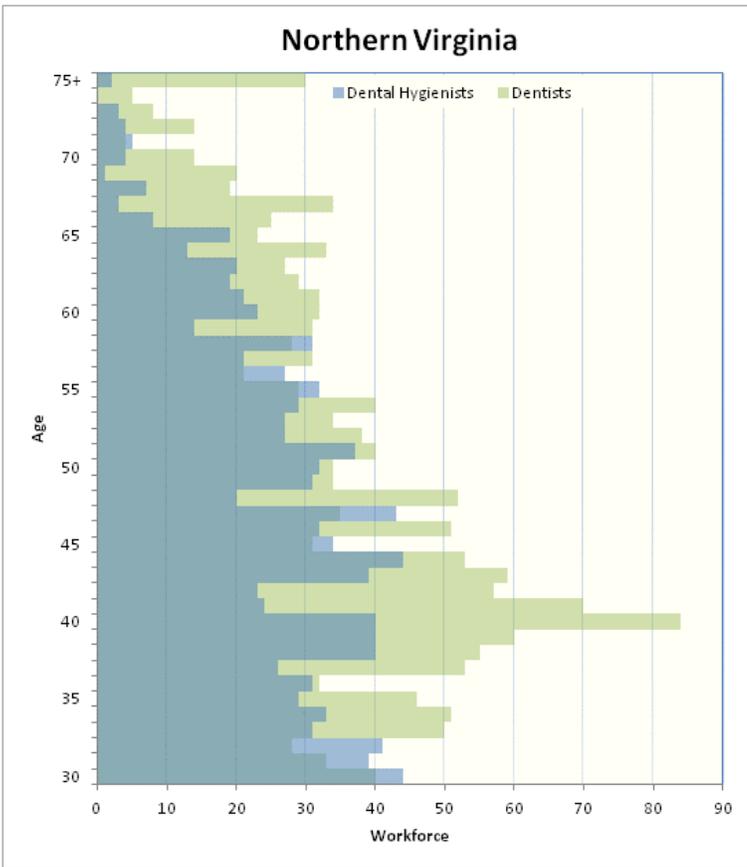
	Dental Hygienists	Dentists
All Ages		
% under 40	34%	19%
% 60+	6%	38%
30+ only		
% under 40	25%	14%
% 60+	7%	41%
Workforce		
Workforce	195	149
FTEs per 1,000 Residents	.41-.48	.44-.47



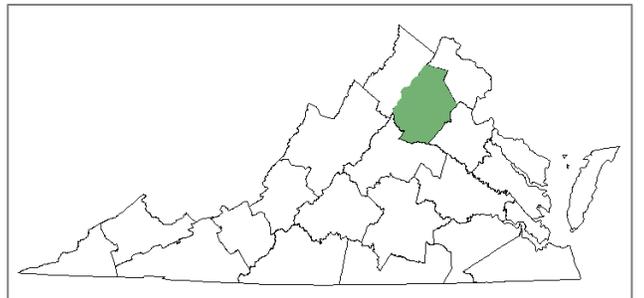
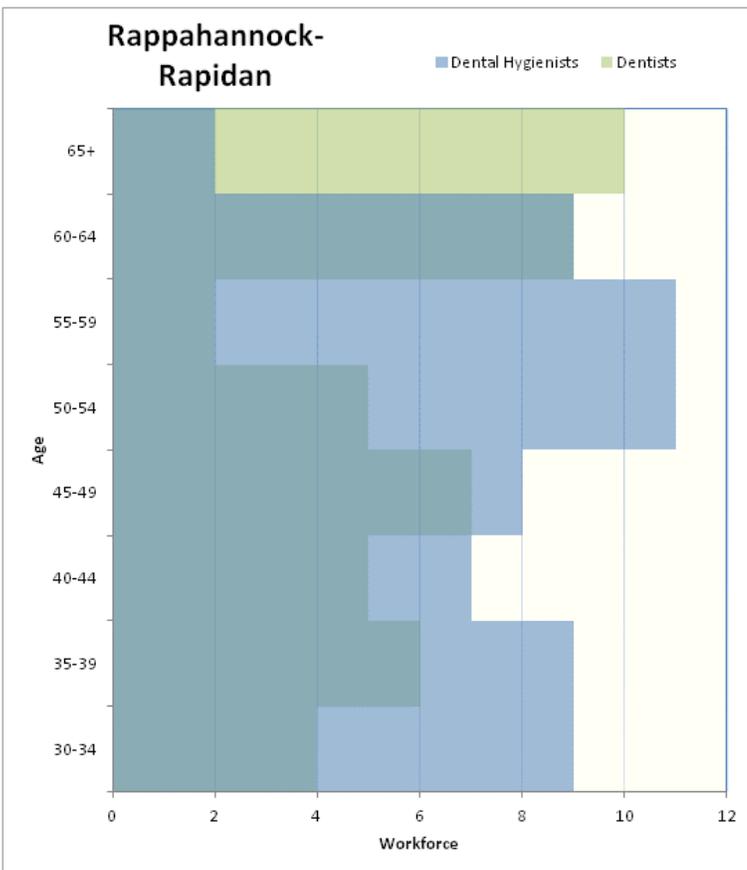
	Dental Hygienists	Dentists
All Ages		
% under 40	39%	23%
% 60+	10%	35%
30+ only		
% under 40	22%	22%
% 60+	12%	35%
Workforce		
Workforce	126	138
FTEs per 1,000 Residents	.29-.33	.37-.41



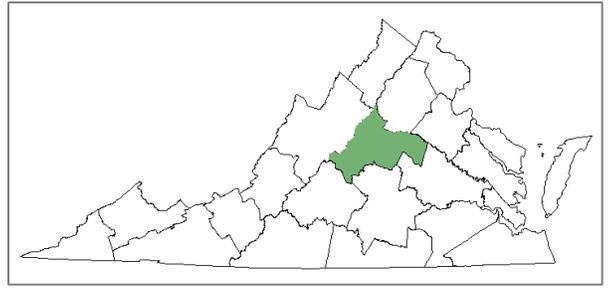
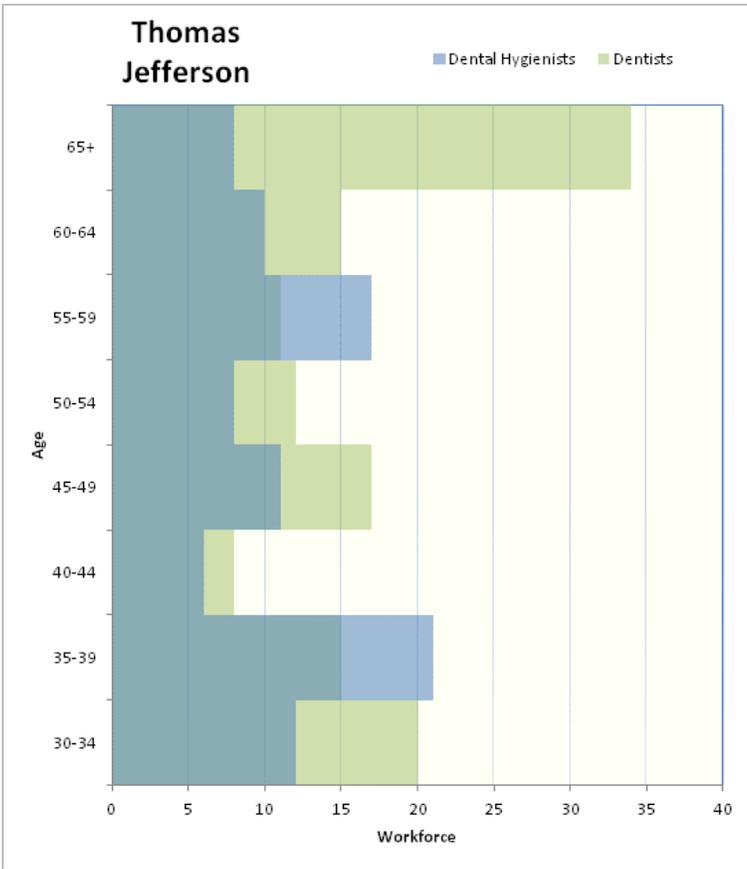
	Dental Hygienists	Dentists
All Ages		
% under 40	34%	26%
% 60+	13%	34%
30+ only		
% under 40	23%	26%
% 60+	16%	34%
Workforce		
Workforce	90	86
FTEs per 1,000 Residents	.29-.33	.31-.33



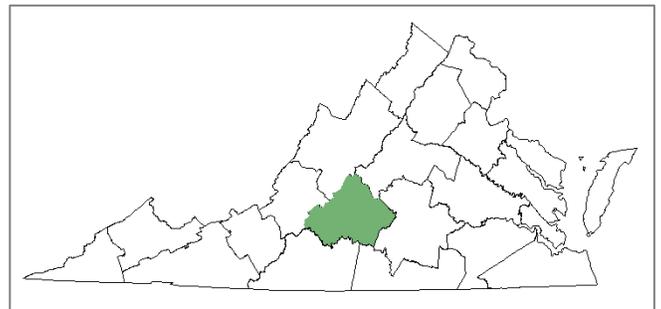
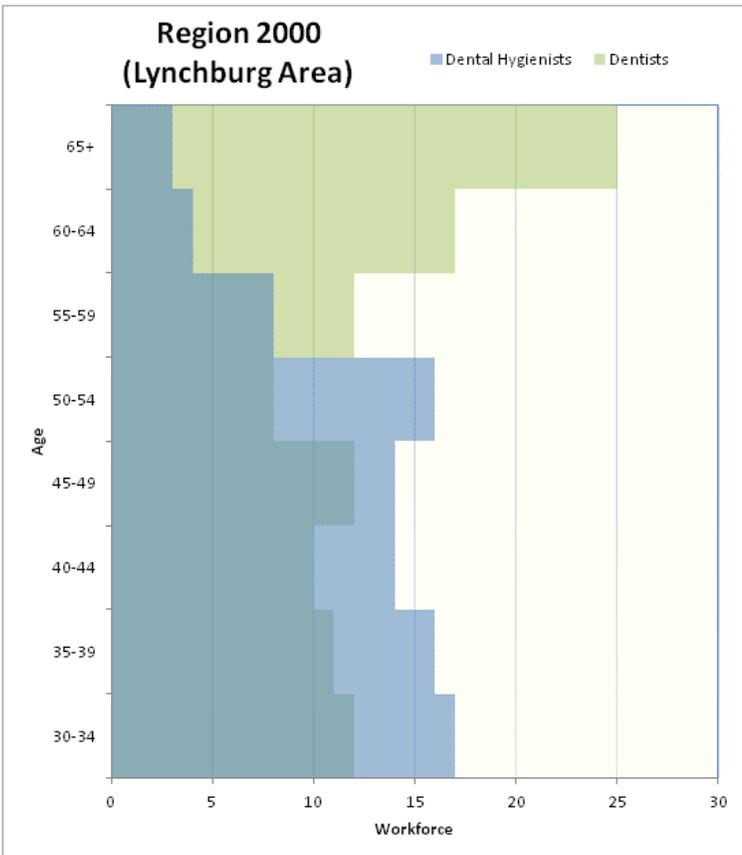
	Dental Hygienists	Dentists
All Ages		
% under 40	40%	29%
% 60+	12%	21%
30+ only		
% under 40	32%	27%
% 60+	14%	21%
Workforce		
Workforce	1,268	1,686
FTEs per 1,000 Residents	.29-.33	.52-.59



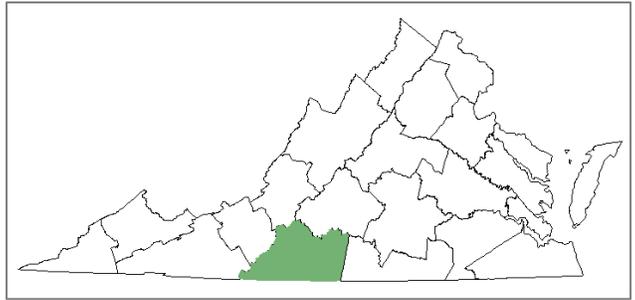
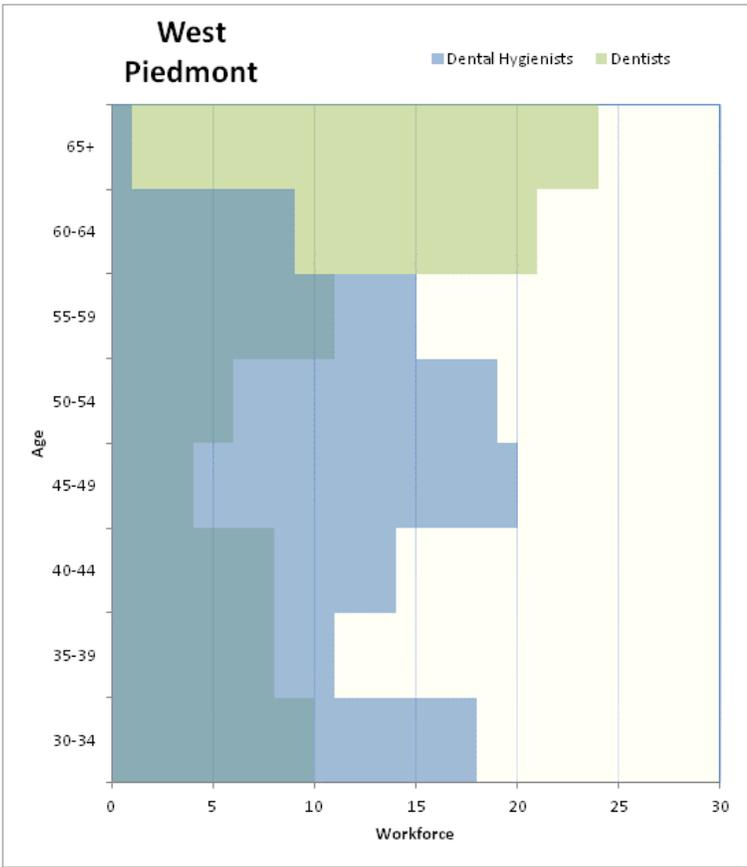
	Dental Hygienists	Dentists
All Ages		
% under 40	36%	24%
% 60+	15%	38%
30+ only		
% under 40	27%	21%
% 60+	17%	40%
Workforce		
Workforce	75	50
FTEs per 1,000 Residents	.26-.28	.19-.26



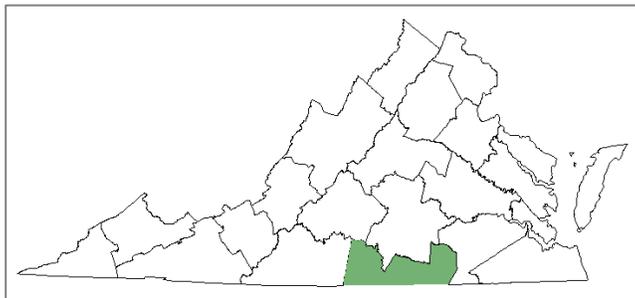
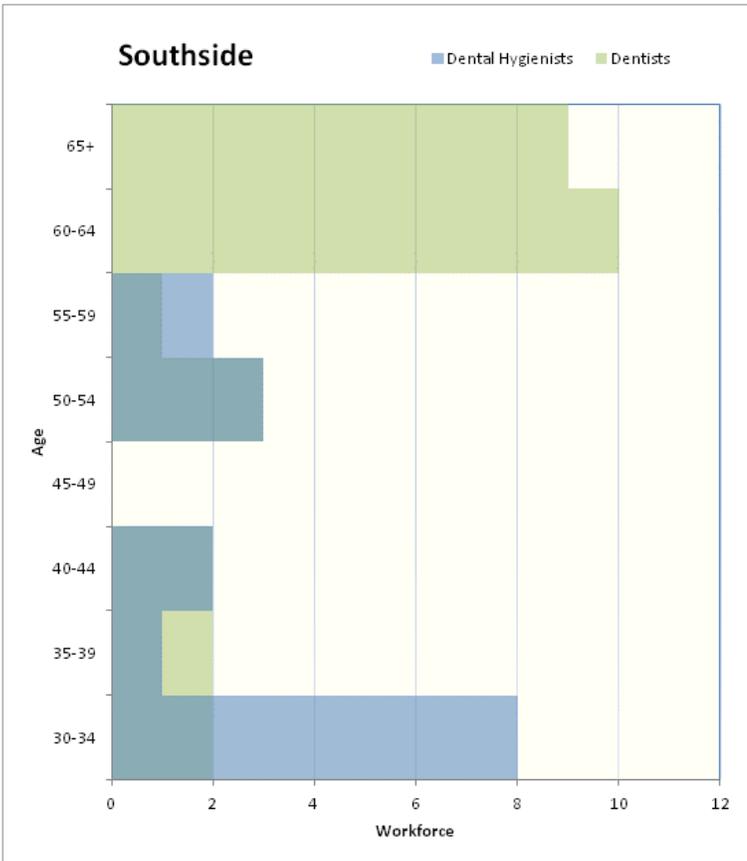
	Dental Hygienists	Dentists
All Ages		
% under 40	52%	31%
% 60+	14%	35%
30+ only		
% under 40	35%	27%
% 60+	19%	37%
Workforce		
Workforce	125	140
FTEs per 1,000 Residents	.29-.33	.52-.59



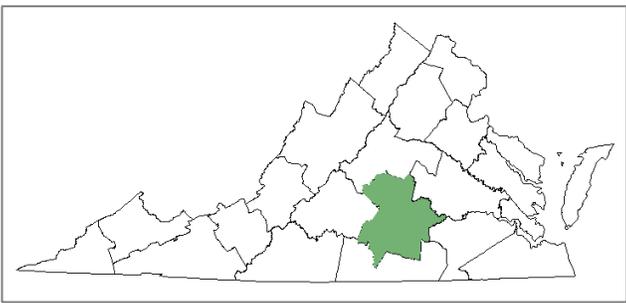
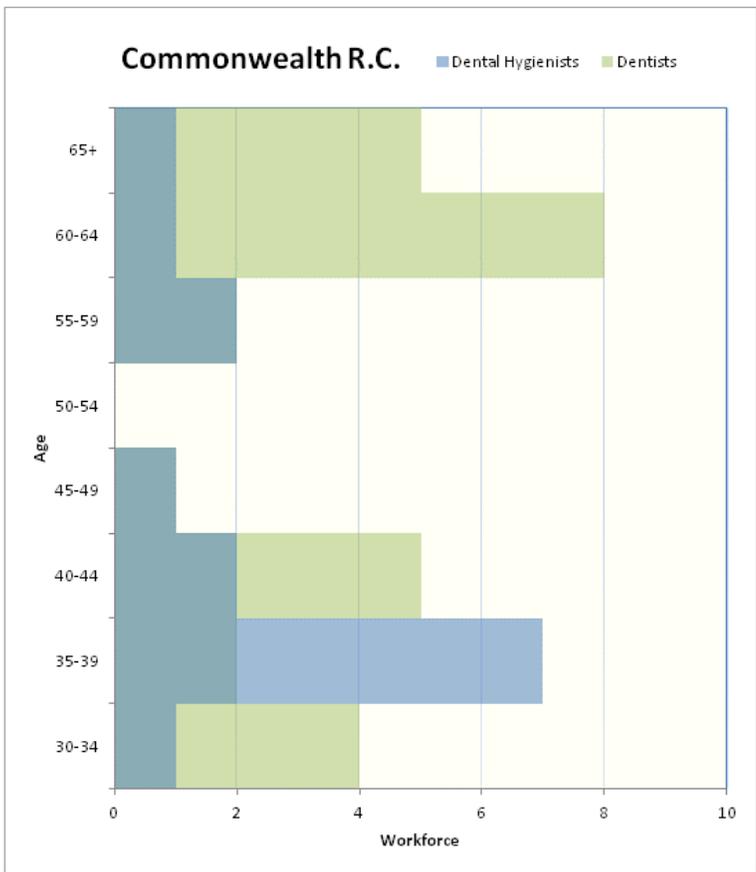
	Dental Hygienists	Dentists
All Ages		
% under 40	43%	23%
% 60+	7%	39%
30+ only		
% under 40	36%	21%
% 60+	8%	39%
Workforce		
Workforce	104	109
FTEs per 1,000 Residents	.19-.22	.37-.41



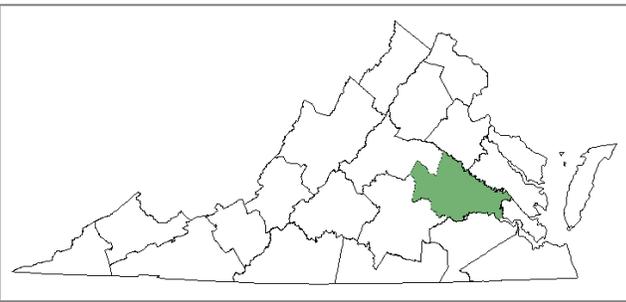
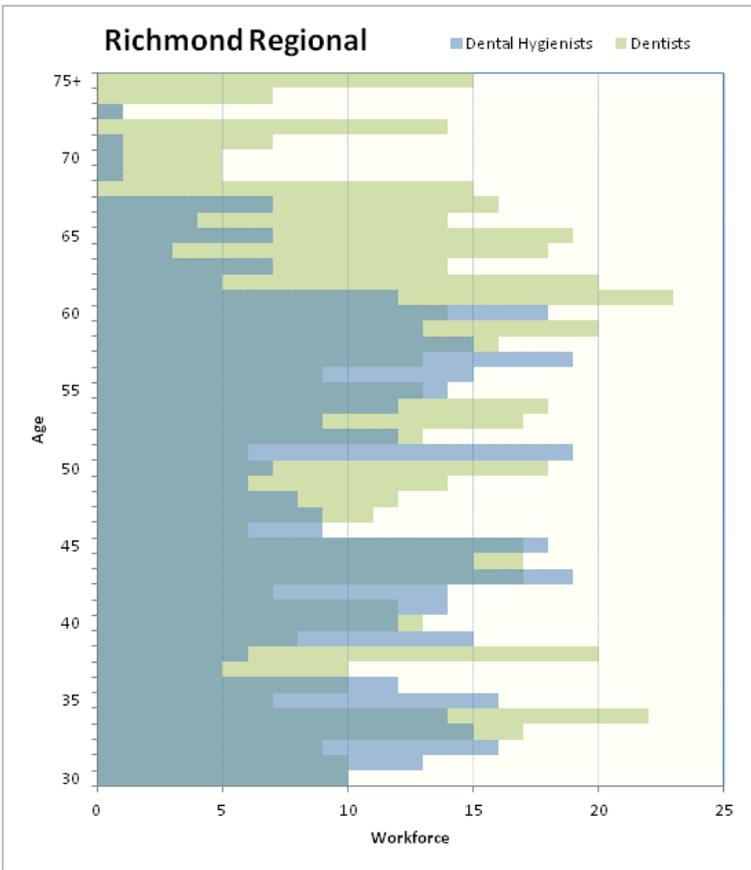
	Dental Hygienists	Dentists
All Ages		
% under 40	35%	22%
% 60+	8%	47%
30+ only		
% under 40	27%	20%
% 60+	9%	49%
Workforce		
Workforce	120	95
FTEs per 1,000 Residents	.29-.33	.31-.33



	Dental Hygienists	Dentists
All Ages		
% under 40	59%	19%
% 60+	0%	61%
30+ only		
% under 40	56%	14%
% 60+	0%	66%
Workforce		
Workforce	17	31
FTEs per 1,000 Residents	.12-.17	.31-.33

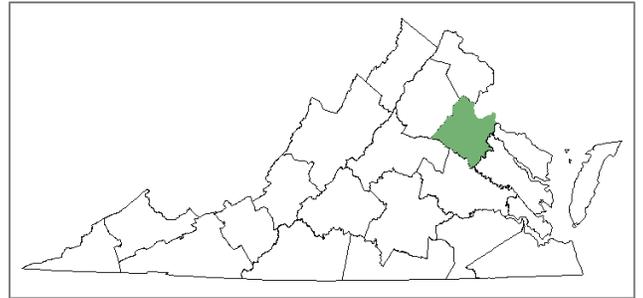
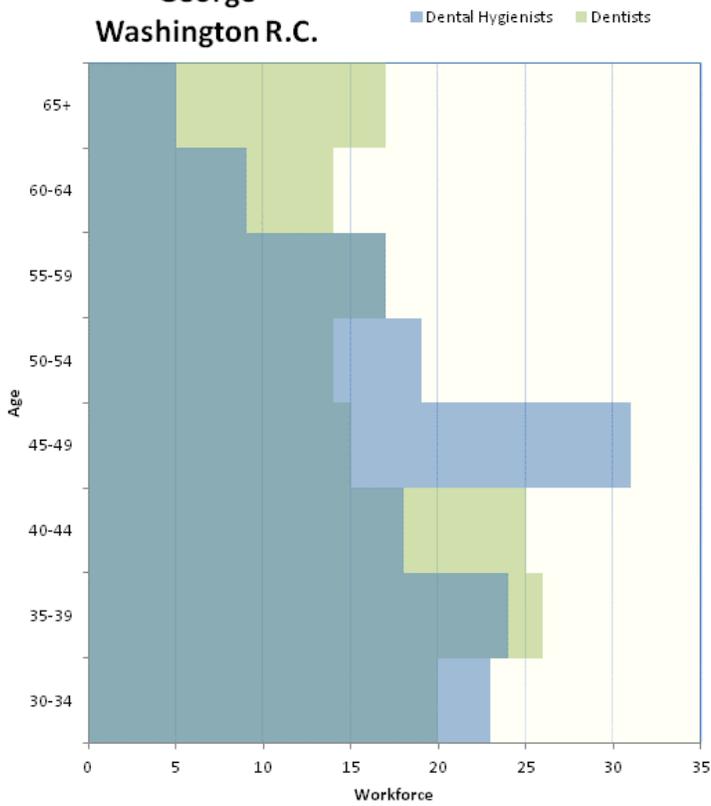


	Dental Hygienists	Dentists
All Ages		
% under 40	61%	22%
% 60+	11%	48%
30+ only		
% under 40	53%	22%
% 60+	13%	48%
Workforce		
Workforce	18	27
FTEs per 1,000 Residents	.12-.17	.19-.26



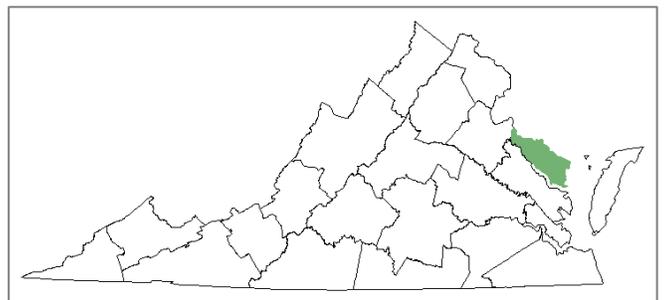
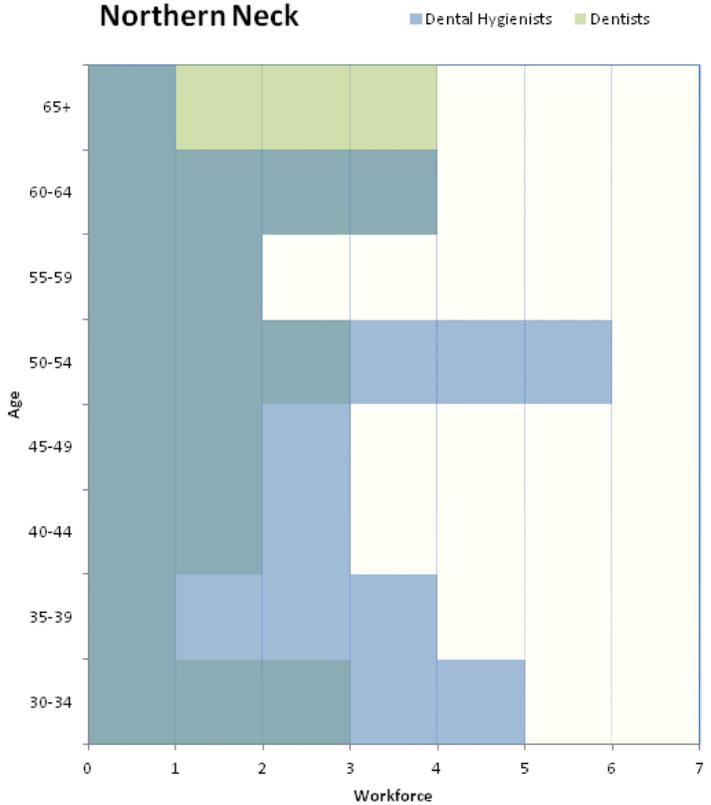
	Dental Hygienists	Dentists
All Ages		
% under 40	37%	24%
% 60+	13%	33%
30+ only		
% under 40	27%	21%
% 60+	15%	35%
Workforce		
Workforce	519	628
FTEs per 1,000 Residents	.29-.33	.52-.59

George Washington R.C.

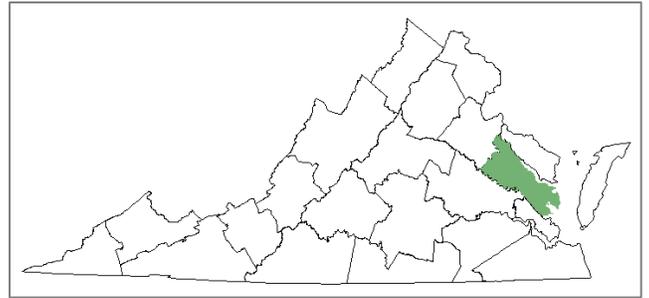
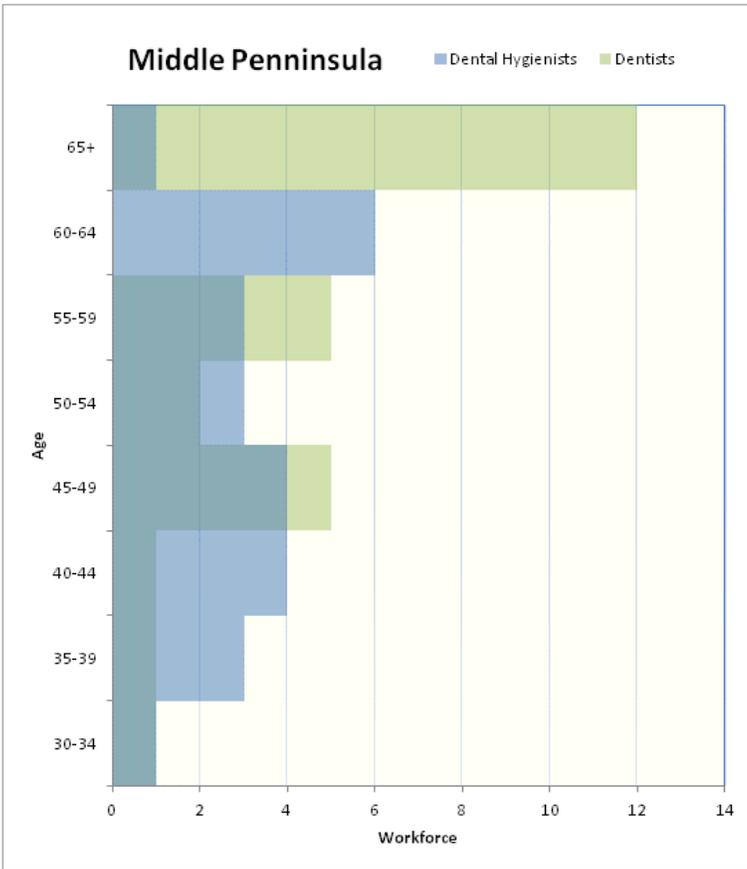


	Dental Hygienists	Dentists
All Ages		
% under 40	36%	33%
% 60+	9%	20%
30+ only		
% under 40	32%	31%
% 60+	10%	21%
Workforce		
Workforce	155	152
FTEs per 1,000 Residents	.26-.28	.37-.41

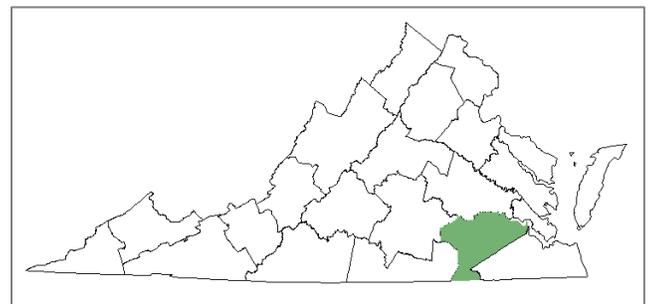
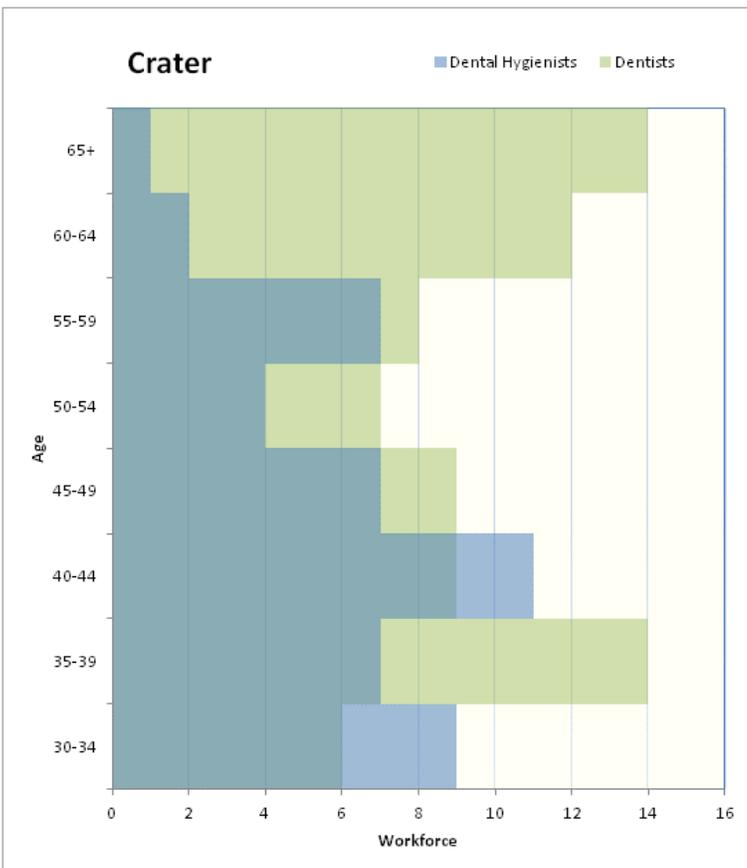
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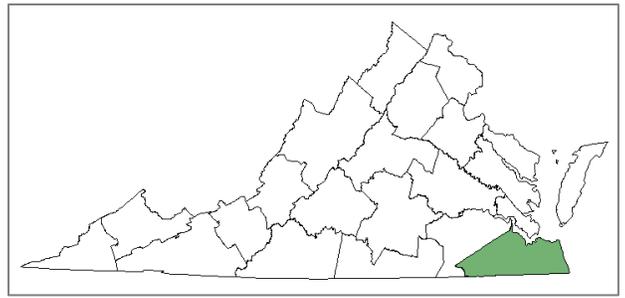
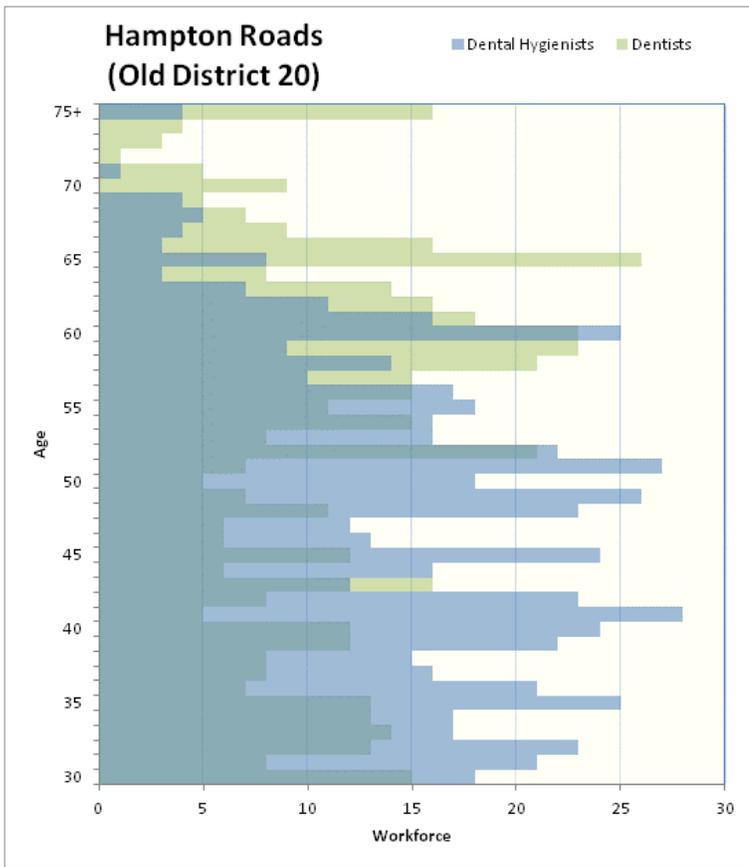
	Dental Hygienists	Dentists
All Ages		
% under 40	42%	23%
% 60+	15%	36%
30+ only		
% under 40	32%	19%
% 60+	18%	38%
Workforce		
Workforce	33	22
FTEs per 1,000 Residents	.41-.48	.44-.47



	Dental Hygienists	Dentists
All Ages		
% under 40	19%	7%
% 60+	27%	44%
30+ only		
% under 40	16%	7%
% 60+	28%	44%
Workforce		
Workforce	26	27
FTEs per 1,000 Residents	.19-.22	.31-.33

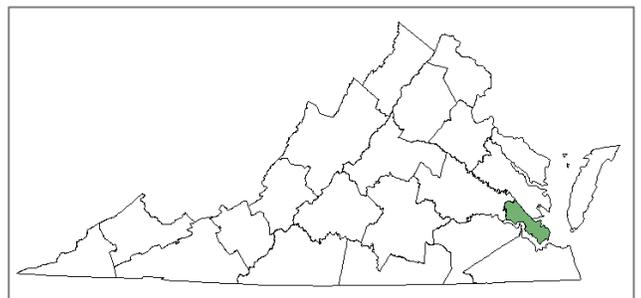
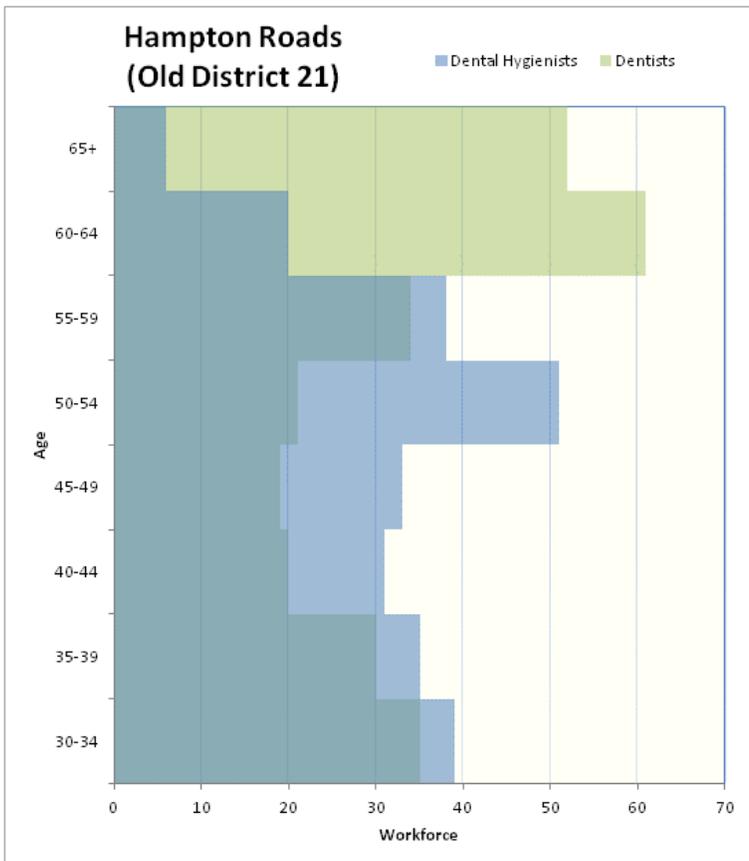


	Dental Hygienists	Dentists
All Ages		
% under 40	47%	31%
% 60+	5%	31%
30+ only		
% under 40	33%	25%
% 60+	6%	33%
Workforce		
Workforce	60	85
FTEs per 1,000 Residents	.26-.28	.44-.47



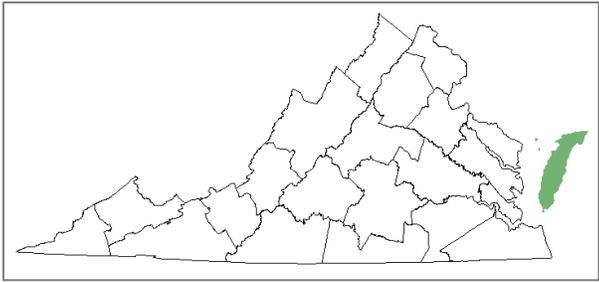
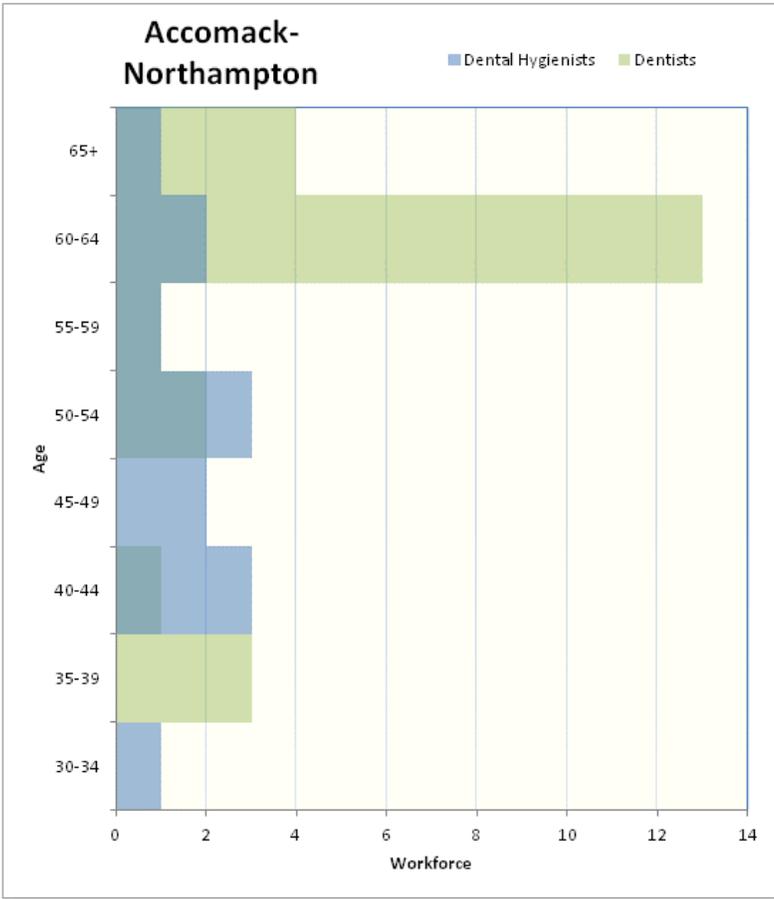
	Dental Hygienists	Dentists
All Ages		
% under 40	41%	23%
% 60+	12%	34%
30+ only		
% under 40	30%	21%
% 60+	14%	35%
Workforce		
Workforce	773	535
FTEs per 1,000 Residents	.41-.48*	.44-.47*

*Reported for both HRVA Districts combined



	Dental Hygienists	Dentists
All Ages		
% under 40	39%	26%
% 60+	9%	40%
30+ only		
% under 40	29%	24%
% 60+	10%	42%
Workforce		
Workforce	295	281
FTEs per 1,000 Residents	.41-.48*	.44-.47*

*Reported for both HRVA Districts combined



	Dental Hygienists	Dentists
All Ages		
<i>% under 40</i>	8%	13%
<i>% 60+</i>	23%	71%
30+ only		
<i>% under 40</i>	8%	13%
<i>% 60+</i>	23%	71%
Workforce		
<i>Workforce</i>	13	24
<i>FTEs per 1,000 Residents</i>	.19-.22	.44-.47